INSCRIPTION OF EMPEROR CLAUDIUS IN CAVTAT (EPIDAURUM)

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UDK / UDC: 930.271(398 Epidaurum)
Izvorni znanstveni članak / Original scientific paper
10.52064/vamz.59.1.4

The article discusses a fragment of an inscription mentioning Emperor Claudius, recently discovered in Cavtat (Epidaurum). Although this is not the first imperial inscription in the Epidaurum area, it is the first to name an emperor from the 1st century, making it a significant find. The inscription likely refers to an imperial donation for the construction or renovation of a building in Epidaurum. In this Roman colony, as in other eastern Adriatic colonies, many important infrastructure buildings were constructed during the 1st century, with the central Roman government encouraging and financing such projects. The inscription was found reused in a private house, raising the possibility that other inscriptions may also have been repurposed as building material in private and public structures in Cavtat. Despite the relatively small size of the inscription, analysis of the fragment allows the authors to associate this monument with the construction or renovation of a tower, or possibly several towers, probably connected to the city walls. It is not known who supervised or carried out the construction, but this inscription can be considered in the context of other 1st-century building inscriptions in Dalmatia, particularly one from the Tiberian period also found in Cavtat. The imperial nomenclature is presented in an abbreviated form, and the authors believe that it refers to Emperor Claudius and that the inscription was set up between AD 51 and 54.

Key words:
Epidaurum, Latin epigraphy, Emperor Claudius, spolia, towers, city walls, 1st century, Roman army, Dalmatia.

Ancient Epidaurum held the status of a Roman colony, but for a city of such significance it has a relatively meagre epigraphic corpus. Despite its small area, the approximately fifty inscriptions discovered so far do not provide much information about the population, administrative organisation or infrastructure.[1] Epidaurum acquired the status of a colony in the 1st century BC,[2] and this persisted until the Late antique period (probably 6th c.), as evidenced by scarce archaeological finds from that period.[3] As in most ancient cities in coastal Dalmatia, a new settlement developed over the urban core of ancient Epidaurum. More recent buildings gradually covered the remains of the former Roman city, which is the main reason for the limited knowledge of its layout and the lack of thorough archaeological research. However, from time to time, a new archaeological discovery reminds us of the once-respected status of the ancient city, or an inscription is found that reveals new information about its population. Recently, an inscription was discovered confirming the epigraphic practice of Epidaurum, dating back to the late Republican era, and representing the earliest Roman inscription found so far in the Cavtat area.[4] We therefore believe that it is only a matter of time before more significant inscriptions come to light. The subject of this discussion gives hope for this.

During construction work on a private building in Cavtat in 2021, a fragment of an inscription commemorating Emperor Claudius was found (Figure 1a–c). The house is located at *Vulićevićeva ulica no. 5* (5 Vulićević Street), and the owner at the time (the late Mato Kuliš) permitted the documentation and examination of the monument.[5] The fragment is damaged on the left and right sides and at the bottom, while at the top a moulding is visible that resembles the frame of a flattened surface and is raised relative to the inscription field. The back of the inscription is uneven, suggesting that the monument was broken off intentionally, possibly during spoliation. On the basis of the

1 On the epigraphic heritage of Epidaurum, see Glavičić 2008.

2 Matijašić 2018, 72.

3 Bijađija 2024, 472.

4 Demicheli, Kapetanić 2021.

5 The authors would like to give thanks to the late Mato Kuliš for his kindness, as well as to his family, in whose possession is the fragment published here.

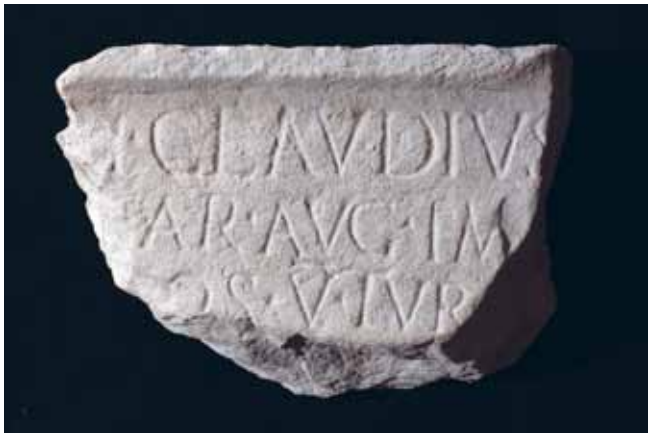


FIGURE 1A. Inscription of Emperor Claudius from Cavtat (photo by D. Vokić).



FIGURE 1B. Inscription of Emperor Claudius from Cavtat, view from above (photo by D. Vokić).

fragment's dimensions, it was originally a small inscription.[6] It is not known how many lines the inscription originally had. The remains of three incomplete lines have been preserved, which could be restored as:

Ṭi(berius) Claudiuṣ
[Caes]ar Augustus im[p(erator)]
[XXII?][c]o(n)s(ul) V TVR+[

The letters are not of the highest quality seen in imperial inscriptions. Between each word on the inscription is a punctuation mark in the form of a triangle. Above the number V, a horizontal line is carved, as is often found in imperial inscriptions that record the number of times a magistracy or a title was held.

Emperor Claudius was born in 10 BC as *Tiberius Claudius Drusus*.[7] Upon ascending the throne, his official name became *Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus*, *pontifex maximus*. During his reign (41 to 54 AD), his official name acquired additional elements, depending on his titles and duties.[8] On this inscription, his name appears in an abbreviated form as *Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus*, omitting the cognomen *Germanicus*, which is more the exception than the rule.[9] Among the titles he received during his reign, this inscription lists *imperator* and *consul*, but only the latter is accompanied by the number of times he held the office. Claudius held his fifth consulship in 51 AD, but, as is customary with imperial inscriptions, the title of consul with the adverbial number is retained on official inscriptions until the next consulship, so dating by consulate usually spans several years. Claudius's fifth consulship was also his last, so this inscription can be broadly dated between 51 and 54 AD. The adverbial number was also inscribed after the noun *imperator*, but it has not been preserved. In any case, these were military acclamations, of which Claudius received his 22nd, 23rd and 24th in the year he became consul for the fifth time.[10] By the end of his reign, Claudius was acclaimed *imperator* three more times, with his last acclamation in 52 AD. For this inscription, this specifically means that, if we date it to the year 51, the number of acclamations for the title *imperator* could be represented by a numeral from XXII to XXIV (or even XXV). If we date the inscription to the year 54, numbers up to XXVII also come into consideration. Of the official imperial duties and titles, mention of *tribunicia potestas*, *pater patriae* and *pontifex maximus* is missing. However, apart from *tribunicia potestas*, the other titles are rarely mentioned, as they are received at the beginning of the reign and last for life. Furthermore, only the number accompanying the title *tribunicia potestas* would determine the dating with certainty, since it was received upon accession to the throne and was renewed each year on the anniversary. All other numbered titles are not regular and do not necessarily change annually.

In Dalmatia, there are about fifteen inscriptions mentioning Emperor Claudius, eight of which refer to milestones.[11] Accord-

6 Length 27 cm, height 16 cm, thickness 10 cm. The height of the letters is 4 cm on the first line, and 3 cm on the second and third lines.

7 Most probably, see Kienast, Eck, Heil 2017, 82.

8 Kienast, Eck, Heil 2017, 82–83.

9 There are not many inscriptions where he is listed as *Ti. Claudius Caesar Augustus*: CIL VI 919 (Rome); CIL VII 1201 (Wooky Hole); AE 1976, 424 (*Lugdunum*); AE 1987, 989 (*Leptis Magna*); CIL II 1953 (Cartima). The inscriptions listed are only those in which Claudius's name is given in the nominative and dative cases. Inscriptions in which the name is in the genitive are not listed because they refer to another person whose father was Claudius (Britannicus or, by adoption, Nero). Also, in those inscriptions Claudius could have been a slave master or a former slave master, and in such cases the full imperial naming scheme is not expected. Furthermore, these include inscriptions of provincial governors, priests and officials who were in Claudius's service. There are more than twenty inscriptions with the name *Tiberi Claudi Caesaris Augusti*.

10 Kienast, Eck, Heil 2017, 83. He was *imperator* for the 25th time in the year 51 or 52.

11 Surroundings of Drvar: CIL XVII/4 276; CIL XVII/4 277; CIL XVII/4 278; CIL XVII/4 281; CIL XVII/4 282; Pećі: CIL XVII/4 275; Resanovci: CIL XVII/4 276; Velika Kopanica: CIL XVII/4 294; Lucin Brijeg: CIL XVII/4 555.

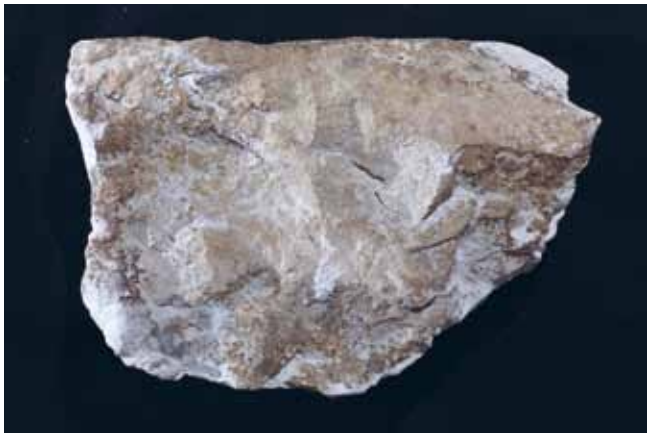


FIGURE 1C. Inscription of Emperor Claudius from Cavtat, rear (photo by D. Vokić).

ing to the milestones found near present-day Drvar, Claudius continued the construction of the road *Salona - ad imum montem Ulcirum*, originally built at the beginning of Tiberius's reign. Bojanovski called this section the *via Claudia*.[12] In addition, it appears that the construction of the *Epidaurum–Anderba* road, which also began during the time of Tiberius or the governorship of Dolabella, was completed during the reign of Claudius.[13] Furthermore, a boundary inscription from Dubrava in Poljica has been preserved, which records the demarcation between the peregrine municipalities of the *Narestini* and *Pituntini*.[14] Claudius, therefore, continued to invest in the infrastructural development of Dalmatia, a process initiated by Emperor Tiberius through his governor, Publius Cornelius Dolabella (governor from AD 14 to 20). More broadly, Claudius distinguished himself as an emperor who made significant efforts to reorganise both the army and the infrastructure.[15]

Besides the inscriptions mentioned above, three others have been found in Dalmatia that refer to construction activities carried out during the time of Claudius,[16] but no information was provided or preserved about what exactly was built. The only inscription from which we know what was constructed, and which also contains Claudius's name, is the altar from Salona, which mentions the construction of a *porticus*. However, Emperor Claudius had already died by then, as he is referred to as *divus Claudius*.[17]

The inscription from Epidaurum, apart from the name of Claudius and some official titles, does not show what was built. Given that the emperor's name appears in the nominative, we do not believe this was an honorary inscription, but rather a record of a building donation by Claudius. All building inscriptions mentioning an emperor outside Rome (and many within Rome) have the imperial name in the nominative.[18] Therefore, it should be assumed that the word beginning with the three letters *tur-* is a noun in the accusative, which explains the purpose of the inscription. In such inscriptions, one might expect the name of the person responsible for implementing the imperial decision to appear after the emperor's name, but it is almost certain that this is not the beginning of a name. This is suggested by the period in which the inscription was created, when all officials had a praenomen before the *gentilicium*, so this possibility can be ruled out.[19]

On the basis of its form, it appears that the inscription was originally built into a structure. At present, the most likely assumption is that Claudius had a tower or several towers constructed or renovated, as the last preserved word could be restored as *tur[rim]* or *tur[res]*. The word *turris* generally refers to a tower, especially a defensive tower of a fortress or a city tower. In a figurative sense, it can denote any tall building.[20] Whether this was a city tower or possibly one intended for military fortification is difficult to determine, but this seems a plausible solution.

In Dalmatia, several inscriptions refer to imperial intervention in the construction of towers, but they are always mentioned together with the construction of city walls (*murum*), which are regularly listed before the noun *turres* (or *turris*).[21] Another inscription that uses the noun *turris* should also be noted: the phrase *turrem ad aquam tollendam*, which refers not to a defensive tower, but rather to the construction of a water tower or water supply system that, during the reign of Emperor Antoninus Pius, was used to bring water from the Cetina (*Hippus fl.*) to the military camp of Tilurium.[22] In addition to these epigraphic examples, there are two more inscriptions concerning the construction of towers built by city officials in Narona,[23] and one from the far southeast of Dalmatia that mentions the construction of gates and towers.[24]

On the other hand, the dimensions of the letters do not strongly support the theory that this is a building inscription, as they are relatively small. The average size of letters on buildings erected

12 Bojanovski 1974, 212.

13 Bojanovski 1974, 246 (citing Sergejevski 1962, 73–109).

14 CIL III 12794 (Dubrava).

15 For Claudius's military reforms, see Tončinić 2014.

16 CIL III 1432116; ILJug 2810 (*Burnum*); ILJug 1987 (*Oneum*).

17 CIL III 1947. The inscription, dedicated to both Claudius and *IOM*, can be dated to the year 54, according to the citation of Claudius's *tribunicia potestas* for the 14th time.

18 Horster 2001, 39. Refers to inscriptions from the period up to Late Antiquity.

19 Women generally do not have a praenomen, but the possibility that a woman is mentioned here is extremely small.

20 Lewis, Short 1879, *s. v. turris*.

21 *Salona*: CIL III 1979; CIL III 6374 (construction of walls and towers in the time of Marcus Aurelius); CIL III 1984; Jeličić-Radonić 2007, 18-19 (renovation of walls and towers in the time of Theodosius and Valentinian III); *Iader*: CIL III 2907; CIL III 13264 (construction of walls and towers in the time of Augustus); *Arba*: CIL III 3117 (construction of walls and towers in the time of Augustus).

22 ILJug 1948 (*Tilurium*).

23 CIL III 1821; CIN 2, 91 (*Narona*).

24 AE 1982, 765 (*Lissus*).

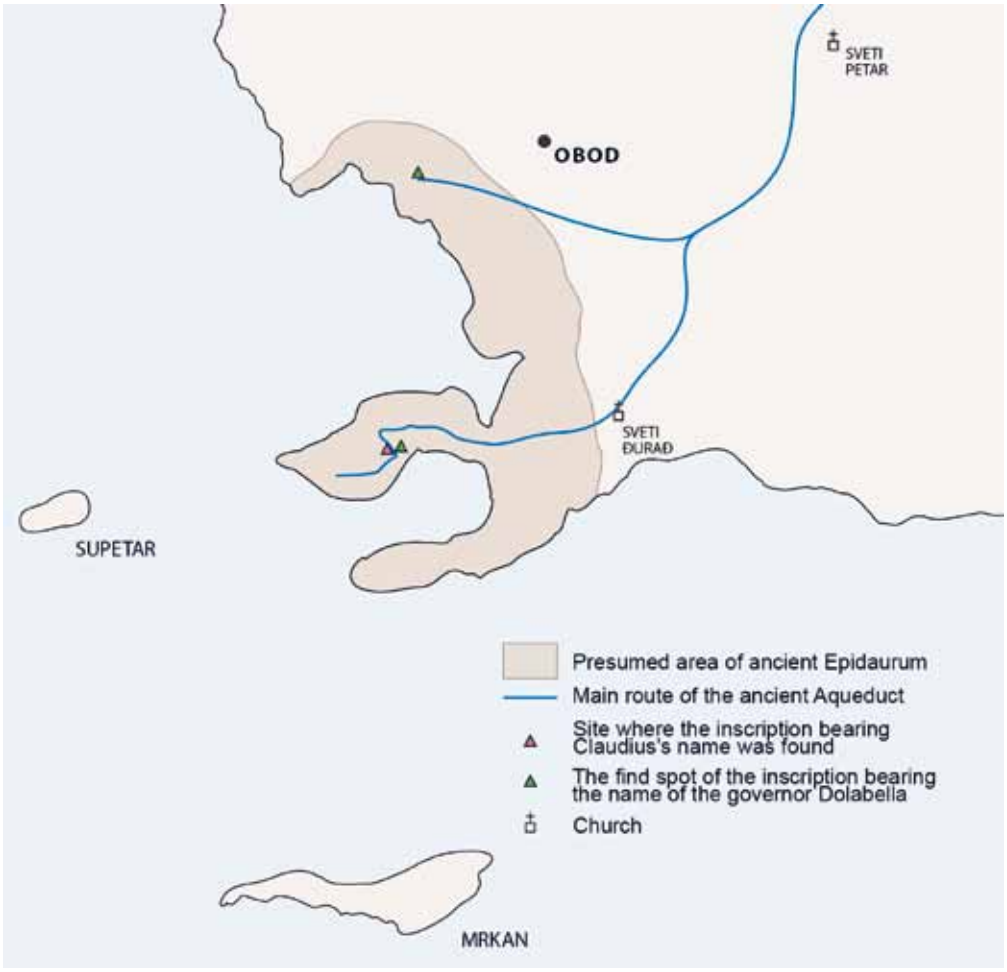


FIGURE 2. Map of the area of Roman Epidaurum with the find-spots of inscriptions mentioned in the text (made by N. Kapetanić).

by the emperors (from Augustus to Antoninus Pius) is 25–15 cm, as the inscription needed to be visible from the ground without much effort.[25] The letters of this inscription, as mentioned, are 4–3 cm high, and to read them a person would have to stand quite close. Nevertheless, even such small letters are not unprecedented in imperial building inscriptions, though such examples are quite rare.[26]

It should also be noted that the inscription was found near the former route of the Epidaurum aqueduct, raising the question of whether it could have had any connection with the aqueduct, which is otherwise the best documented infrastructural structure in this colony. The Epidaurum aqueduct (Vodovađa–Cavtat) is known to have been built in the 1st century, was 24 km long, and has been the subject of a monograph.[27] So far, the word *turris* in the context of water distribution appears only in the aforementioned Tilurian inscription from the time of Antoninus Pius (*turris ad aquam tollendam*), and it referred either to a separate building or to a system that was not an aqueduct in the classical sense. However, in addition to Roman water management, we know of water towers whose primary function was to reduce water pressure in the event of a sudden change in terrain height and to distribute water to further water towers, taps, fountains or households.[28] Water towers are best documented in the water supply system of Pompeii, where fourteen have been discovered so far.[29] It is not known whether the Romans called such a structure a *turris*, as there is no epigraphic confirmation that such a structure bore any name. It is believed that such a structure is an integral part of aqueduct architecture and that it is unlikely an object like this would have been built solely with state funds. On the other hand, it is possible that it was a renovation, not a new construction, which could also have been financed with state money. Even if we interpret the term as the noun *turrim*, we still do not have an answer as to which object this tower could be associated with. Linking our inscription with towers along the city walls seems more likely, although the exact route of the city walls of Epidaurum is not known.[30] The Roman colony should have had city walls, espe-

25 Horster 2001, 14.

26 Imperial inscriptions in small letters which could belong to the category of building inscriptions are listed in Horster 2001, 15, note 40.

27 Kovačić 2012. This work also lists all relevant literature.

28 The principle of operation of water towers is given by Margeta 2023.

29 Olsson 2015, 14.

30 It is possible that the remains of a massive wall discovered during excavations in the western part of the peninsula belonged to the city ramparts. Only the core of the wall was found there, while the outer and inner surfaces had disappeared. See Faber 1966, 28; Cambi 2006, 197.



FIGURE 3. Building inscription mentioning the governor Dolabella and the cohors VI Voluntariorum (Glavičić 2008, 47, fig. 2).



FIGURE 4. Honorific inscription set up by the peregrine communities of Illyricum Superius (Glavičić 2008, 46, fig. 1).

cially during the Civil War at the end of the Republican period, since Epidaurum (47 BC), like Salona (49 BC), was unsuccessfully besieged by the remnants of Pompey's troops.[31]

Epidaurum has only one inscription relating to construction, and it was found, interestingly, in the same street as the one in question here, specifically in its immediate vicinity (Figure 2). It is one of the most significant inscriptions from Epidaurum and mentions the governor Dolabella, during whose administration something was apparently built in this area (Figure 3). The construction work was carried out by the *cohors VI Voluntariorum*, led by the tribune L. Purtisius Atinas, and the inscription also bears the name of one of the city's chief magistrates.[32] This is also the only certain inscription mentioning this cohort,[33] and whether its members built a road, an aqueduct, or some other important piece of infrastructure remains unknown.

In addition to the word that likely refers to a tower, the rest of the text should include the name of the leader of the activity, as well as the verb used to describe that activity. So far, the best-attested implementer of Claudius's decisions in Dalmatia was the governor P. Anteius Rufus, who is recorded on the three building inscriptions.[34] If he was named, it is to be expected that the physical labour for the presumed construction or renovation of a facility in Epidaurum came from the military units stationed in Dalmatia. The VII and XI legions (*CPF*), as well as the auxiliary units of Roman citizens, the *cohors VIII Voluntariorum* or *cohors VI Voluntariorum*, are possibilities, whereas the peregrine cohorts would be less likely to be considered as builders.[35] At least 31 years passed between the aforementioned inscription in which the *cohors VI Voluntariorum* is mentioned and the Claudius inscription, yet it is still possible that the army also participated in this construction work. Although there is currently no archaeological evidence for this, it is reasonable to presume that a military camp near Epidaurum that would have protected a Roman colony probably should have existed. So far, three military inscriptions have been found in this area that can be dated to the 1st century, and in addition to the one already mentioned, which refers to the *cohors VI Voluntariorum*, there are also two sepulchral inscriptions mentioning active members of the *cohors VIII Voluntariorum*.[36] The army often participated in vital infrastructure projects, such as building roads, city walls, bridges, theatres, temples and similar works. This means that, during the 1st and 2nd centuries, military activity in Dalmatia did not exclusively relate to military facilities or warfare. The army, as a stabilising force and a key factor in

31 Caes. *Bell. Alex.* 44.5; Caes. *Bell. civ.* 3.9,2; On Octavius's siege of Salona in 49 BC, see Bilić-Dujmušić 2022; on Octavius's siege of Epidaurum in 47 BC, see Cambi 2006, 187–188.

32 ILJug 636, *[P(ublio)] Dolabella / leg(ato) pro pr(aetore) / coh(ors) VI vol(untariorum) / trib(uno) L(ucio) Purtisio Atinate / [-] [------]ilio C(aio) Saenio IIvir(is).*

33 The Salonitan inscription ILJug 2098 (= CIL III 2062 + CIL III 8747) records the career of the centurion Lucius Varius. As part of the inscription is missing, it is unclear whether Varius was a centurion in *cohors VI V[ol(untariorum)]* or in *VI V[igilum]*. Ivan Matijević (2017) has written extensively about this and, like most authors, believes that it was the *VI Voluntariorum* cohort.

34 CIL III 14321; ILJug 2810 (*Burnum*); ILJug 1987 (*Oneum*).

35 There is no epigraphic evidence to date that the peregrine cohorts participated in construction projects in Dalmatia during the 1st century. Although the construction of military facilities by military units is to be expected, it is possible that the construction of facilities important for urban infrastructure was left to soldiers with Roman citizenship. The closest known military camp to Epidaurum was *Bigeste*, where several units were stationed during the 1st century *(cohors III Alpinorum, I Bracaraugustanorum* and *I Lucensium*), but the possibility that these units undertook any construction is small.

36 CIL III 1742; CIL III 1743 (*Epidaurum*).

establishing permanent Roman administration, took part in all important processes in every province, including Dalmatia. Given the above, we currently believe that this inscription mentions Emperor Claudius for donating to the construction or renovation of a tower or several towers, possibly relating to the city walls. Anything financed by an emperor cannot be considered of minor importance, and, as noted, Dalmatia in Claudius's time was still a relatively young province, with many activities requiring funding from the imperial treasury. Although we do not know exactly what was built in Epidaurum or who participated in the project, this inscription is valuable evidence of something that was expected but for which material confirmation was previously lacking. Epidaurum, at that time the southernmost city with the status of a Roman colony in Dalmatia, was already one of the centres of worship of the imperial cult at the beginning of the 1st century, as evidenced by the most famous inscription from this city (Fig. 4).[37] This inscription was erected in honour of the exceptionally active governor Publius Cornelius Dolabella, best known for building a network of roads connecting the north and south of the province, and for being the most important promoter of the imperial cult, especially at a crucial moment in the final stage of the establishment of Roman rule in Dalmatia.[38] This monument was erected by the peregrine communities of Dalmatia, or Upper Illyricum (*Illyricum Superius*), as the official name of the province probably was at that early time. Dolabella created a cadastral map demarcating all peregrine territories within the province,[39] resolved disputes among the local population, and was responsible for spreading imperial worship at the regional level.[40] In addition to the three known centres of imperial worship associated with juridical assizes (Scardona, Salona and Narona), Epidaurum may also have been one of them.[41]

All of the above supports the importance of this city at the end of the Republican period and during the early Principate, but the absence of material remains still prevents us from drawing more concrete conclusions about its urbanisation and organisation. Fortunately, occasional discoveries still come to light, often published in professional journals, thanks to the diligence of local individuals. There is no doubt that important archaeological evidence from the period of early Roman presence can still be expected in the area of the former Epidaurum. Due to the construction of Cavtat, it is unlikely that we will ever gain insight into the original layout of Epidaurum, but we can hope for new evidence, at least in the form of reused inscriptions in traditional local architecture.

37 CIL III 1741 (*Epidaurum*), *P(ublio) Corne[lio] / Dolabell[ae co(n)s(uli)] / VIIviro epul[onum] / sodali Titiensi / leg(ato) pro pr(aetore) divi Augusti / et Ti(beri) Caesaris Augusti / civitatis superioris / provinciae ʃHʃIllyrici.*

38 Demicheli 2017, 12 sqq.

39 ILJug 874 (*Corinium*).

40 For the regional imperial cult in Dalmatia, see Jadrić-Kučan 2012.

41 In addition to the three known centres of imperial worship associated with juridical assizes (Scardona, Salona and Narona), there is a theory that there was a fourth juridical assize centred on Epidaurum which was put forward by Y. Marion 1998, and is reported by Šašel Kos 2005, 233 and Jadrić-Kučan 2012, 62. More recently, S. Čače and F. Milivojević (2017, 445) conceivably expressed their divergence in opinion on that matter.

SAŽETAK

NATPIS CARA KLAUDIJA IZ CAVTATA (EPIDAUR)

Rad obrađuje ulomak epigrafskog spomenika koji je 2021. godine pronađen u Cavtatu, na području antičkog Epidaura. Iako su na prostoru Epidaura već poznati natpisi vezani uz rimske careve, ovo je prvi poznati natpis koji izričito spominje cara iz 1. stoljeća, odnosno cara Klaudija (*Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus*). Zbog toga nalaz ima veliku važnost za proučavanje razvoja rimske kolonije Epidaura i odnosa između lokalne zajednice i središnje rimske vlasti.

Natpis je pronađen sekundarno ugrađen u privatnu kuću, što nanovo pokazuje pokazuje praksu spolijacije antičkih spomenika u Cavtatu. Sam ulomak je malen i sačuvan je samo djelomično, no očuvani dijelovi teksta omogućuju rekonstrukciju dijela careva imena i službenih titula. Autori zaključuju da se natpis može datirati između 51. i 54. godine poslije Krista, odnosno u posljednje godine Klaudijeve vladavine. Datacija se temelji na spomenu njegova petog konzulata koji odgovaraju tom razdoblju. Analiza teksta pokazuje da se najvjerojatnije ne radi o počasnom natpisu podignutom u čast cara, nego o građevinskom natpisu koji bilježi carsku donaciju ili financiranje nekog infrastrukturnog zahvata. Naime, Klaudijevo ime navedeno je u nominativu, što je tipično za natpise koji obilježavaju gradnju ili obnovu javnih objekata financiranih od strane cara. Posebna pozornost posvećena je djelomično sačuvanoj riječi koja počinje slovima *tur-*. Autori smatraju da ju je moguće rekonstruirati kao *turrim* ili *turres*, odnosno „kulu“ ili „kule“. Na temelju toga iznose pretpostavku da je natpis bio povezan s izgradnjom ili obnovom jedne ili više kula, vjerojatno dijela gradskih bedema Epidaura. Takvo tumačenje dobro se uklapa u poznate primjere iz drugih dalmatinskih gradova, poput Salone, Zadra ili Arbe, gdje natpisi spominju gradnju bedema i kula uz sudjelovanje careva ili lokalnih vlasti. Iako danas ne poznajemo točan izgled ni trasu epidaurskih bedema, povijesni izvori potvrđuju da je grad morao biti utvrđen.

Autori razmatraju i mogućnost da se riječ *turris* odnosi na vodotoranj ili dio vodovodnog sustava. Naime, natpis je pronađen u blizini trase poznatog epidaurskog akvedukta, izgrađenog tijekom 1. stoljeća. Međutim, za takvo tumačenje nema dovoljno dokaza pa se povezanost s gradskim obrambenim sustavom smatra vjerojatnijom.

Natpis se promatra i u širem kontekstu Klaudijeve politike u Dalmaciji. Poznato je da je Klaudije nastavio infrastrukturne projekte započete još za Tiberija, osobito izgradnju cesta i administrativno uređenje provincije. U Dalmaciji je sačuvano petnaestak natpisa koji spominju Klaudija, ali većina ih se odnosi na miljokaze i cestogradnju. Ovaj nalaz predstavlja rijedak primjer natpisa koji se može povezati s konkretnim građevinskim zahvatom u urbanom prostoru. Posebno je zanimljiva usporedba s poznatim građevinskim natpisom iz Epidaura koji spominje namjesnika Publija Kornelija Dolabelu i kohortu *VI Voluntariorum*. Taj natpis svjedoči o sudjelovanju rimske vojske u izgradnji javne infrastrukture. Autori stoga smatraju mogućim da su i u slučaju Klaudijevog projekta građevinske radove izvodile vojne postrojbe stacionirane u Dalmaciji.

Zaključno, iako je riječ o malom ulomku natpisa, njegovo značenje nadilazi njegove skromne dimenzije. Natpis potvrđuje izravnu povezanost cara Klaudija s infrastrukturnim razvojem Epidaura te predstavlja novi dokaz važnosti grada u ranorimskom razdoblju. Nalaz također pokazuje koliko se još vrijednih arheoloških i epigrafskih spomenika može skrivati u sekundarnoj uporabi unutar povijesne jezgre Cavtata koji doprinose spoznajama o urbanitetu i stanovništvu antičkog Epidaura.

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